



COMMANDO

Any Time Any Place

Vol. 52, Issue 38

16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Oct. 1, 2004

AF civil engineers augment Hurlburt recovery efforts

By Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

After Hurricane Ivan's tremendous impact to Hurlburt Field, an Air Force wide request was made by the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron for assistance with base recovery efforts.

More than 55 CE National Guardsmen and REDHORSE personnel from around the country as well as structural engineers from the Air Force Civil Engineering Support Agency Headquarters Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., responded to the call for help in critical areas, where the base needed to get back up and running, said Master Sgt. Douglas Smith, 16th CES.

"The first group of augmentees arrived Sept. 22 and the last group is scheduled to arrive Monday," Sergeant Smith said. "They'll be helping our CE personnel get our power lines, water lines, heating ventilation air-conditioning and refrigeration systems and generators back up to speed."

Not only will the augmentees be assisting CE personnel, they'll also work alongside the 823rd REDHORSE Squadron and AFCESA to help with the structural damage.

Because the base will have more than 50 additional Airmen to concentrate solely on recovery efforts, Sergeant Smith said Hurlburt Field's recovery time will be quickened.

"The additional CE personnel will allow us to concentrate more personnel on our critical infrastructure areas," he said. "They'll allow more Hurlburt Field personnel to get back to their jobs, while still assisting others with the cleanup."

As of now, the Guardsmen will concentrate on areas on the Soundside, where the most damage occurred, followed by the Commando Village and the main base.

Because Hurlburt Field is well-equipped with readi-



Photo by Airman 1st Class Kimberly Gilligan

Civil engineer electricians repair powerlines on Hurlburt Field after Hurricane Ivan swept through Sept. 16. Augmentees have arrived from around the United States to assist Hurlburt Field squadrons with recovery efforts.

ness resources, the Guardsmen traveled light, bringing only their knowledge and skills.

The CE Guardsmen arrived from the following locations: Arkansas, California, Idaho, two squadrons in Mississippi, New Mexico, two squadrons in New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah and Vermont.

The projected date of departure for the Guardsmen is Oct. 24.

CFC kicks off with... 'Be A Hero All Year'

By Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

Hurlburt Field kicked off the Combined Federal Campaign Wednesday at the Soundside, with more than 100 people and 40 local agencies in attendance.

This year's campaign theme, "Be A Hero All Year," focuses on how just one donation a month can help someone in need all year.

"I encourage everyone to take advantage of the CFC and look into the book to learn about the different agencies," said Lt. Col. Kevin Degnan, Air Force Special Operations Command deputy IG.

Colonel Degnan and his wife, Annette, were able to adopt a daughter because of CFC donations to several adoption agencies.

The CFC campaign's mission is to support and promote humanity through a program that's employee-focused, cost-efficient and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

Hurlburt Field's goal for last year was 45 percent participation; this year's goal is 50 percent participation. The base continues to raise impressive numbers in dollars received, raising more than \$360,000 in 2003 donations.

Most donations last year were made by payroll deductions. This year's deductions will take effect from Jan. 1 to December, 2005. Members who don't want payroll deductions can make a one-time contribution by cash or check.

The goal for this year is \$425,000.

Throughout the next six weeks several events will be held to keep the campaign energized. For more information visit www.opm.gov/cfc.

Fire Prevention Week



Sunday through Oct. 9 is nationally recognized as Fire Prevention Week. For more information about the observance, see Pages 3 and 12.

Wing run, barbeque, ceremony

A mandatory wing run will be held Thursday at 6:45 a.m. for all 16th Special Operations Wing military personnel. Tenant units are welcome to attend. The event will begin at the helicopter parking ramp on the east side of the flightline. Uniform will be solid-colored dark shorts with a black or brown T-shirt. A post-Hurricane Ivan barbeque and recognition ceremony for all base personnel will follow at noon at the Community Park. See respective first sergeants for details regarding both events.

More than medics



Medics within the 16th Operations Support Squadron perform casualty evacuation missions.

Page 14

Weather forecast

Friday – Partly Cloudy,
High 87 Low 66

Saturday – Partly Cloudy,
High 88 Low 67

Sunday – Thunderstorms,
High 86 Low 65

www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/weather/5day

Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community. I really appreciate your feedback.

To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the **COMMANDO**.

I'll answer the others by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you and perhaps improve their process. However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give me a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil.



Col. O.G. Mannon

Airmen encouraged to exercise right to vote

By Lt. Gen. Michael Wooley
AFSOC commander

We're currently engaged in a global war on terrorism. Unfortunately, many Americans have given their lives in this conflict. Though we suffer a loss with each American killed, these lives weren't sacrificed in vain. Each one of those lives was given in the cause of freedom – and the price of freedom is high – freedom is not free.

I am proud of your actions defending our way of life. You're making America safer. I am now asking you to continue supporting freedom, not as Airmen, but as American citizens – exercise your right to vote.

Voting is not only a great responsibility...it's a great privilege. The people of Afghanistan will hold their first democratic election Oct. 9. More than 10 million Afghan citizens, including four million women, have registered to vote. For the first time in their lives, they'll get the opportunity to democratically choose their government officials. Our Airmen in Iraq are working with our sister services, the Iraqi interim government, our coalition partners, and the United Nations to prepare Iraq for its first democratic election scheduled for January. The actions of Air Force Special Operations Command Air Commandos and Air Rescue Warriors are playing a large role in setting the stage for national elections, both in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Gen. John Jumper (Air Force Chief of Staff) wrote in his Aug. 18 CSAF Sight Picture, "The Secretary of the

Air Force, Dr. Jim Roche, and I are dedicated to ensuring every eligible Airman has the opportunity to vote... No other single act is so fundamental to our form of government. Please register. Please vote."

The Air Force has made great strides in improving the absentee voting system. Please take a few minutes and study the information available on the "Airmen Votes" Web site accessible through Air Force Link.

In the 2000 Presidential election, 49 percent of eligible voters didn't vote. This translated to more than 100 million eligible Americans not taking advantage of the opportunity...and that election clearly showed that every vote counts. I challenge you, America's Quiet Professionals, to take advantage of your right to express your opinion and vote. My personal goal is to have 100 percent of AFSOC Airmen vote in not only our Presidential election, but our local ones as well.

I am asking each unit voting assistance representative and commander to ensure every AFSOC Airman has the opportunity to vote. You have a little more than one month – make this a repeat Commander's Call topic. I want every Airman to know the process required to vote in the upcoming election – regardless of whether they're deployed or at home-station.

Now is when we need to be working absentee balloting issues for our deployed Airmen and for those at home-station, registering to vote. Although I hold unit commanders personally accountable to ensure all Quiet Professionals have the opportunity to vote, it's ultimately the responsibility of each individual to vote.

You're going to kill someone

By Lt. Col.
Christopher Tancredi
43rd Airlift Wing

POPE AIR FORCE BASE, N.C. – Recently, the (43rd Airlift) wing had a rash of driving-under-the-influence charges, on and off base. The offenders were enlisted, officers and civilians. One of these days, someone is going to kill him or herself or someone else.

I know what you're thinking: "Not me." Everyone says that, but it happens. What if it is you who kills an innocent person, child or loved one? Can you live with that? I can't imagine waking up and looking in the mirror and realizing I hurt an innocent bystander because I did something stupid.

By now, we have all gotten the message on DUIs: They can't be tolerated. And we have all heard how

devastating a DUI charge can be on your career. So let's take a minute and look at a few career-limiting consequences.

If apprehended in town (trust me, sooner or later, they all get caught) your punishment can vary based on a number of factors. First, you could receive jail time, resulting in an absent-without-leave status. Your license will be suspended. Average costs run between \$2,000 and \$3,000 for increased fines and court costs. And your insurance will go up. How much? Let's say you are a 25-year-old single male driving a Ford Mustang.

Before your DUI, you had a good driving record and paid around \$2,000 a year for full coverage. After your DUI, your insurance could jump to \$8,000 a year. Ouch!

As a side note, if you or any of your passengers have an open con-

tainer of alcohol, you each get charged with one insurance point and the offense is counted as an alcohol incident, throwing you into a higher risk category.

For on-base DUIs, commanders can reduce ranks and impose fines. Each stripe above senior airman gives you about \$300 in pay, and if you lose that staff sergeant stripe, you also lose \$60 in base allowance housing per month. That is a total loss of more than \$4,200 in pay annually.

A DUI normally results in an Article 15 (on base), a letter of reprimand or a unfavorable information file (both off base), suspension of on-base driving privileges for 12 months, reduction in performance report ratings and

See **DUI**, Page 5

This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. It's published by the Northwest Florida Daily News, a private firm that isn't connected with the U.S. Air Force, under an exclusive written contract with the 16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Disclaimer

COMMANDO articles are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, doesn't constitute Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or the Northwest Florida Daily News endorsement of the products or services advertised.

Equal opportunity

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Advertising

Contact the Northwest Florida Daily News, 863-1111 or 1-800-755-1185 for advertising information.

COMMANDO Classified ad policy

Free classified advertisements are available to Department of Defense military members, DOD civilians and retirees and their family members only. Advertisements are for the one-time sale of personal property only and will run only once per submission. Advertisements for businesses or income producing activities may not be printed. All advertisements must be manually typed into the advertising database computer located in the public affairs office in Building 90210, Suite 326. Mailed, faxed, e-mailed, phoned-in ads, etc. won't be accepted. All ads will run on a space available basis only. Submission of an advertisement doesn't guarantee its appearance in the Commando. The Commando staff reserves the right to edit or refuse classified advertisements due to inappropriate content, space considerations or other reasons deemed necessary. Paid advertisements may be submitted to the Daily News at 863-1111. This is the only way to guarantee an advertisement will run in the Commando.

Production

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photography unless otherwise indicated. The COMMANDO staff may include or exclude articles based upon the news value determined by the staff, impact on the wing's mission, and the space allotted for editorial content by the publisher.

Submitting articles

The deadline for submissions to the COMMANDO is 4 p.m. Wednesday for briefs the week prior to publication. Articles may be submitted on IBM format computer disk or via electronic mail. Non-electronic submissions must be typed, double-spaced and all submissions must include the name and telephone number of a person to call for questions.

Address information

U.S. MAIL: COMMANDO
131 Bartley Street, Suite 326
Hurlburt Field, FL 32544-5271
E-MAIL: commando@hurlburt.af.mil
TELEPHONE: (850) 884-7464
FAX: (850) 884-6093

COMMANDO Editorial Staff:

Col. O.G. Mannon
Commander
Capt. Thomas Knowles
Chief, Public Affairs
Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
NCOIC
Staff Sgt. Chris Jordan
Chief, Internal Information
Staff writer
Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Editor
Airman James Dickens
Senior Staff Writer
Vanessa Adame
Layout and Design/Staff writer
16th Communications Squadron
Photography
Northwest Florida Daily News
Production Support

DUI tracker

Sept. 10-30: 0 DUIs
This year: 28
DUIs for 2003: 54
Last DUI: 4th
Special Operations
Squadron, Sept. 4
Airmen Against Drunk
Driving: Don't Drink and Drive.
Call 884-8844



Potential saves this year: 750
16th OG...26 16th MXG...38
16th MSG...54 16th MDG...212
As of Feb. 15, individual groups get a down day for 60 consecutive days without a DUI. Totals are current as of Sept. 30.

Flight squadron named among 'excellent' teams

Story and photo by Richard Salomon
Air Force Manpower Agency Public Affairs

The 18th Flight Test Squadron "Life in the Fast Lane Test Team" was selected as one of the five teams for the 2004 Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper Sept. 14, during the Air Force Association convention in Washington, D.C.

A total of 15 teams were nominated for this year's award, which recognizes outstanding team performance and promotes systematic process improvement. The award also serves as a means to share best practices and promote mission improvement and cost savings throughout the Air Force. The process improvements generated from this year's award nominees are expected to save the Air Force about \$104 million in first-year savings.

"I want to thank all the teams for your hard work and for

the tremendous impact you have had on Air Force operations," General Jumper said. "Everybody here deserves to walk off with a trophy. The fact that you recognized a need to improve the mission and used the right tools to produce effective solutions, makes all of you winners in my book."

Responding to operational needs and strategic off-site inputs, 18th Flight Test Squadron members created a test director-training course in conjunction with a fast-track testing program that unclogged a backlog of critical global-war-on-terrorism tests. The team's efforts shortened test director training time by 346 percent and saved \$1 million in direct man-hour costs in the first year. The process also cut down average test completion time from 271 days to 52 days – a 521 percent improvement. The fast-track test process enabled U.S. Special Operations Command forces to receive verified tactics and equipment at a rate previously unheard of. This team was also recognized as an Air Force Best Practice.

Duke Field aids relief efforts after hurricane strikes area

By Maj. Beena Maharaj
919th SOW Public Affairs

DUKE FIELD, Fla. – After "Ivan the Terrible" passed through north-west Florida with 140 mile-per-hour hurricane winds and deadly tornadoes that caused billions of dollars of damage and at least 18 U.S. deaths, Duke Field picked up a new mission.

Late Sept. 16, Duke Field became a logistical staging area for the 40 members of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and about 500 people from the Florida Division of Forestry, Southern Area Incident Management Team, Florida State Emergency Response Team and Florida National Guard.

"The winds from Ivan had barely died down, when people started arriving in droves with initial needs for lodging, food, communication

equipment and a place to work," said Master Sgt. Keith Free, 919th Special Operations Wing facilities manager. "With hurricane damages, power outages and few personnel on hand, we canvassed the base and had folks in every work space possible...within hours."

The logistical staging area is the storage point for food, ice, water and other commodities before they're shipped to various distribution points in the area.

The flightline spaces used to park MC-130E Combat Talon I aircraft went to hundreds of tractor-trailers, filled with supplies ranging from baby food to bug spray.

"This is an opportunity for us to help our community in a time of great need," said Col. Mark Kyle, 919th SOW commander. "I'm proud to host the relief effort, and we're committed

to providing the best possible support to make this humanitarian mission a success."

In addition to Duke Field Reservists offering infrastructure support, the National Guard personnel are essentially the arms and legs of the operation. The troops are providing security and handing out much-needed supplies at various locations throughout the panhandle.

Since operations began, 7.2 million pounds of ice, 655,000 gallons of water and 307,000 meals ready-to-eat have been distributed.

"We know that the relief effort is never fast enough for the survivor who is suffering," said Charles Henderson, FEMA representative. "However, we can assure people that progress is being made. Relief money is not only in the pipeline, but on the streets." (AFRC News Service)

Base participates in fire prevention week events

The Hurlburt Field Fire Department announced that National Fire Prevention Week will be observed Sunday through Oct. 9.

The Fire Protection Flight conducts fire prevention and fire safety programs throughout the year to teach the base and local community how to protect themselves from fire. This concern for safety is highlighted during fire prevention week, which marks the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, Oct. 9, 1871.

On that day, fire destroyed 17,430 buildings, killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless and burned more than 2,000 acres in 27 hours – costing \$168 million. This was one of the largest and most destructive fires in American history.

Mrs. O'Leary's now famous cow started the Great Chicago Fire when it kicked over a lantern inside her barn. The fire quickly spread to neighboring buildings. After this tragedy, fire prevention codes were written requiring safer construction.



The Great Chicago Fire

The theme for this year's fire prevention week is "Test Your Smoke Alarms," which focuses on the fact that while smoke alarms save lives, alarms can't protect people if they're not in working order.

To protect your life and property, your smoke alarms must work:

■ Test every smoke alarm in your home at least once a month, following the manufacturer's instructions.

■ Schedule battery replacement on a day you'll remember and make it an annual routine.

■ Replace any smoke alarm that's 10 years old or older.

■ Clean your smoke alarms regularly, following the manufacturer's instructions.

■ Hold home fire drills at least twice a year.

■ Draw a floor plan of your home showing two escape routes – including windows – from each room. Discuss escape plans with everyone in the household.

■ Choose a meeting place outside your home where everyone can meet when they've escaped.

To learn more fire safety tips, visit the fire prevention displays throughout the week.

Spotlight

on...

Bill Walkowiak

Rank/Duty Title: Master sergeant/AC-130U Instructor Loadmaster

Organization: 4th Special Operations Squadron

Hometown: Buffalo, N.Y.

Hobbies: Astronomy, model aircraft, old radios and watching *The Simpsons*

Contribution to the mission:

Sergeant Walkowiak has flown more than 8,000 hours on seven types of aircraft. He's also supported multiple operations overseas and received an Air Medal for his heroism. In 2001, he was selected as the 4th SOS Senior NCO of the quarter and 16th Operations Group Loadmaster of the Year.

Sergeant Walkowiak was the first and only Gunship loadmaster selected to participate in writing the Loadmaster SKT promotion exam and is recognized for his development of the Air Force Special Operations Command inspection program to federally recognize gaining Air National Guard Units. After 26 years of service, Sergeant Walkowiak is retiring.

(Editor's Note: The Commando highlights Airmen, junior NCOs, company grade officers, Department of Defense civilians and volunteers in units who do a great job, and should receive day-to-day recognition. Supervisors can call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464 for more information on nominating an individual for the "Spotlight on..." column.)

Test your detector
It's sound advice!

Chief speaks on decreased Air Force manning

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper said a decrease in recruiting is the right way to reduce manning rather than forced reductions.

"Retention and recruiting for the Air Force throughout this crisis over the last three years has remained superb," the general said. "Even after stop-loss was lifted, people feared that Airmen would be leaving the Air Force in great numbers, especially in the Guard and Reserve; it just didn't happen.

"And so, we find ourselves in a position where we have 20,000 people more than we should have by law," he said. "I want to try and deal with it without any forced reductions in the force. I don't want anybody to be forced to leave (who) doesn't want to. The secretary of the Air Force (Dr. James Roche) and I are absolutely dedicated to making sure we don't break faith with our Airmen."

To get the manning numbers to where they should be and keep Airmen's faith, recruiting is going to be cut by about one-third for a year, General Jumper said.

"We've never tried this before, but I think it's the right thing to do," he said. "Taking that loss in one year (should help us) get back to the numbers we're supposed to have, and we hope that the excesses in the few previous years will help fill in those holes as far as grade opportunity."

Taking care of people and the Air Force organization as a whole is all about knowing where the critical shortages are and ensuring the right people have the right skills and are doing the right things, General Jumper said.

"We went for years during the '90s making cuts in people," he said. "We would cut 10 percent, and then 15 percent and then 20 percent – and then we finally ended up cutting a total of 40 percent of our force," he said.

"In a lot of cases, those slots didn't go away, and people with other skills then migrated into them. You have people with essential skills we need, now filling slots that should have been taken off the books and never were," General Jumper continued.

"It's a hard thing to do, and it's very traumatic. But, (during) the first two years of my tenure, we got the books balanced, and we got the people out of the slots that were supposed to be emptied; we got the right people in the right slots," he said. "Only then did we really know what our critical shortages were."

But this shift in manning doesn't mean the Air Force is doing more with less, General Jumper said.

"We've got better budgets over the last three years than we've had in many years...," he said. "We've got airplane parts, and mission-capable rates in our airplanes higher than what they've been for years. Why? Because we've had money to buy the parts for the first time in years."

It all comes down to proper use of Airmen and letting them know they're valued, the general said.

General Jumper said he wants Airmen to know that "we appreciate their service, and we're going to do everything we can to keep people who want to stay in the service." (AFPN)

Civilian guards tapped for security at Hurlburt Field, six other bases

By Gary Emery

Air Force Security Forces Center
Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – People entering the gates at some Air Force bases can expect to see a few new faces.

Contract civilian guards began providing entry controller services at six active-duty bases and one Air Reserve Station Thursday. The bases gaining civilian guards for the first time are Hurlburt Field, Fla. (time to be determined), Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Hanscom AFB, Mass., McChord AFB, Wash., Moody AFB, Ga., Tinker AFB, Okla. and Minneapolis-St. Paul Joint Air Reserve Station, Minn. Contract guards began manning the gates at 11 other Air Force installations May 18.

The guards, employees of USProtect, Silver Spring, Md., have been hired to assist the Air Force in implementing the required force protection measures, according to Col. John Salley, Jr., commander of Headquarters Air Force Security Forces Center at Lackland AFB, Texas. The requirements include 100 percent identification checks at base gates and increased vehicle inspections, he said. The contract guards will also help alleviate operational and personnel tempo commitments of active-

duty security forces.

"Security forces at many bases have been greatly assisted by the Army National Guard, members from the Air Force Reserve components and security forces augmentees, but many of them have or will return to their units of assignment soon," Colonel Salley said.

For example, the Air Force is scheduled to lose the services of about 5,300 Army National Guard members starting early November up to late December of this year.

"The civilian guards hired in May at the initial 11 bases have worked out very well," Colonel Salley said. "They have blended in seamlessly with our security forces and enhanced overall security at those locations. I feel sure commanders and security forces at the new bases will feel the same way."

USProtect will take over the civilian guard contract at the original 11 bases as well as provide guards at the new locations, he said. This change in contractors was a result of a re-bid action directed by Headquarters Air Force.

"With the exception of rendering salutes to commissioned officers, the civilian guards will perform the same entry controller duties as their military counterparts," said Lt. Col. Randee Preston, deputy director of the Force Protection Commodity Council here.

The guards will be used for installation entry control point duties and will perform commercial vehicle inspections in search areas prior to base entry, she said.

Before May, contract guards weren't usually employed on most active-duty bases, although installations such as Patrick AFB, Fla., which uses contract guards for security at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, do so on a routine basis. The Air National Guard has also successfully used civilians to guard its installations for years, Colonel Preston said. People can be assured the contract guards are fully qualified, she said.

"Each person employed will be required to meet state requirements for training and licensing as armed guards, as well as meeting Air Force and local base training requirements."

In addition, quality assurance evaluators from security forces units at each of the locations have been trained and will monitor the performance and effectiveness of their civilian counterparts, she added.

Headquarters Air Force and some major command funding pays for the basic contract with each base or its major command responsible for funding additional requirements, such as overtime, additional training and posts for unexpected force protection condition changes. Given the possibility of increased force protection requirements due to the continuing worldwide terrorist threat, additional contracts for armed security guards will be necessary in the future, Colonel Salley said.

News Briefs

TRICARE Prime an allotment

Uniform Health Care beneficiaries enrolled in TRICARE Prime can now choose to have premiums taken from their retired pay as an allotment. There are no provisions at this time for annuitants to have premiums deducted.

These allotments are being phased in between August and November. The three TRICARE regional representatives will handle all transactions. For regional contact information, visit <http://www.tricare.osd.mil>.

This option went into effect in August for the West region, September for the North and is set for October for the South, with the first pay deductions starting the following month.

Retirees: Contact myPay

Military retired users of the myPay system recently received a two-fold notice from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service that informed retirees that if they wanted DFAS to continue to print and mail paper documents, they would have to take action.

To keep receiving the documents, retired members can call the customer contact center at (800) 321-1080 from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. anytime during the year or log on to myPay by Oct. 31 at <https://mypay.dfas.mil> to select the hardcopy option associated with each document they would prefer to have mailed.

MyPay now allows retirees to provide a personal e-mail address for future correspondence.

EFCU ACCTS PAYABLE
COMMANDO/50TH AN
559937
4 X 10.00

DUI, *Continued from Page 2*

elimination for consideration of recognition. The damage to your record is significant and extremely difficult to overcome. You immediately lose about 20 Weighted Airman Promotion System points due to the referral enlisted performance rate. Best case, it will take five years to overcome the points lost for promotion.

The final cost is an altered reputation and loss of pride for you and your organization. Your reputation is marred, as you have let yourself, your unit and your Air Force down. Your unit's character is suddenly questioned because of one member's actions. The community questions Air Force values when they see or hear about a DUI. Don't let a lapse in judgment impact our reputation with the community we protect.

There are multiple safety nets out there to help you avoid this life-changing event. Plan ahead if you choose to drink. Select a designated driver, know who to call when you need a ride, stay the night, walk, etc. Not only could it save you money and a lot of trouble, it could save lives. **(AFPN)**

Important Phone Numbers

Federal Emergency Management Agency – (800) 621-3362;
TTY: (800) 462-7585

State of Florida Emergency Information 24-hour hotline –
Call for road information, airports, etc: (800) 342-3557

State Volunteer and Donations Hotline – (800) 354-3571

Elder Affairs – (800) 963-5337
Florida Power and Light –
(800) 468-8243

Department of Financial Services Insurance Claim Hotline –
(800) 227-8676

Attorney General's Price Gouging Hotline – (800) 646-0444

Agricultural and Consumer Services Price Gouging Hotline –
(800) 435-7352

Agency for Workforce Innovation Unemployment Claims –
(800) 204-2418

Salvation Army Donation Helpline –
(800) 725-2769

American Red Cross –
(800) 435-7669

24-hour Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline:

Hurlburt Field 884-6322

Air Force (800) 538-8429

Department of Defense (800) 424-9098

Damage reporting

Members who reside in family housing should call 884-1154/3064 if there's damage to their home from Hurricane Ivan.

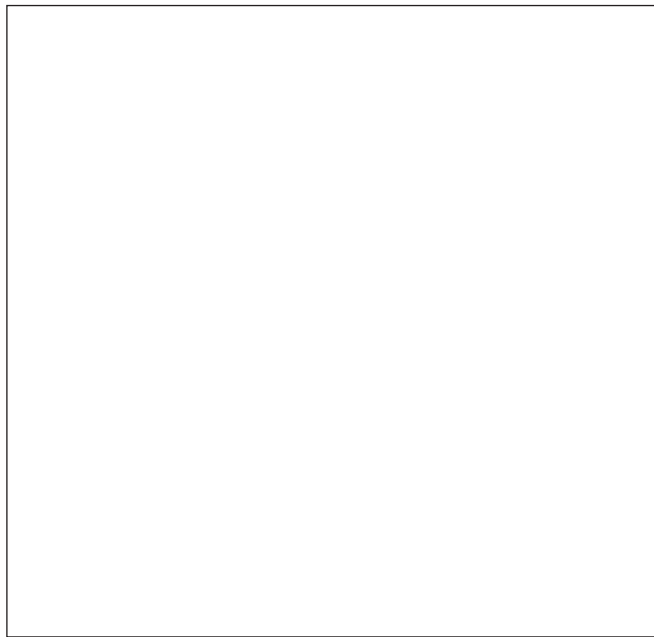


Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Jordan

Help is here

Maj. Douglas McMahon (foreground), 33rd Flying Training Squadron flight commander at Vance Air Force Base, Okla., his wife Michelle, and Bob White unload a truck full of supplies into the Hurlburt Field Airman's Attic Monday. Major McMahon spearheaded a relief effort, which garnered more than a ton and a half of nonperishable food items, water and soda as well as a \$1,060 cash donation to Hurlburt Field to help out members affected by Hurricane Ivan's destructive visit.

Conserve resources for future generations

By Jennifer Cooper
16th CES

October is Energy Awareness Month. You have the power to conserve energy; you can make a difference by saving energy.

It took more than 200 million years to form the oil beneath the surface of the earth. It has taken 200 years to consume half that endowment. If current rates of consumption were to continue, the world's remaining resources of conventional oil would be used up in 40 years.

However, this wouldn't be the end of fossil fuels. The world's coal resources are much larger, and there are vast amounts of unconventional fossil fuels, such as shale oil, tar sands and natural gas trapped in ice beneath the ocean. At present, these energy resources would produce much harm to the environ-

ment and would be very expensive to use.

In the future, ways may be found to use some or all of these resources economically and without undue damage to the environment, and advanced technologies may be developed to produce clean, economical energy from other sources.

In the meantime, it makes sense to use fossil resources, such as oil, more efficiently to reduce environmental impacts, and buy time to develop new and better energy sources.

Two-thirds of the oil we consume powers transportation vehicles, and half goes to passenger cars and light trucks. Being a fuel-economy conscious consumer doesn't mean buying a car you don't want. It means shopping around to find a vehicle that gives you all the features you want with the best fuel economy available.

This will not only help conserve fuel today, but will signal carmakers to use advanced technology to make cars even more energy efficient in the future.

PENSACOLA GUARAN-
TEED
COMM RHP/30 YEAR
560305
2 X 3.00

DAVID G
THOMPSON/GEICO
COMM RHP/THE CAR
561928
2 X 7.00

DRIVE
SAFELY

CAUTION

Independence Road will be temporarily closed from Loop Road to the Loop/Brims intersection Oct. 9, while the

road is being milled in preparation for the new turn lane and traffic signal at Liemanis. Only emer-

gency vehicles will be allowed through the construction site during this time. Independence Road will reopen the same day to all traffic once milling and clean up operations have been completed. Drivers are asked to exercise caution when driving on the milled surface. Your cooperation and patience are appreciated during this phase of construction.

For more information, call Gary Ross at 884-7524.

DRIVE
SAFELY

HENRY COMPANY HOMES, INC.
COMM/DREAM HOME
562317
3 X 10.00

Joint command headquarters stands ready to defend capital

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

FORT LESLEY J. MCNAIR, D.C. – A new headquarters here will concentrate on the military mission to help defend the nation's capital.

The Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region will guard America's "center of gravity," said Army Maj. Gen. Galen Jackman, the new organization's commander. The command unites all Department of Defense elements and the Coast Guard. The Army Military District of Washington, the Naval District of Washington, the Marine Corps National Capital Region Command and the Air Force's 11th and 89th wings are the major component commands in the new joint force. Normally, there will be between 3,000 and 4,000 people in the command, officials said.

The command is the latest manifestation of the trend toward joint environments in the military. It was given a boost after the experiences of Sept. 11, 2001. There was no joint headquarters to coordinate military support to lead agents at the Pentagon, General Jackman said. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld ordered the creation of the command in Washington in June 2003. The command formally activated with ceremonies at Fort Myer, Va., Sept. 22.

As the commander, General Jackman will answer to Gen. Ralph "Ed" Eberhart, commander of U.S. Northern Command.

Officials from the new command will plan and coordinate for military assistance to homeland defense and civil support in the District of Columbia and the Maryland and Virginia suburban counties. A major portion of the command's mission is to coordinate and act as liaison with local law enforcers and first responders. The command also will work with state and federal entities, ranging from the White House Military Office to the U.S. Park Police.

Command officials will help form plans in the event of attacks and support national-level ceremonies, officials said. In the past year, the command has been activated six times, General Jackman said. It participated in cleanup after Hurricane Isabel in September 2003, was involved in security and logistics for the president's State of the Union address in January and responded to the February ricin incident on Capitol Hill. More recently, the command coordinated the National World War II Memorial dedication ceremonies, the Reagan funeral and a homeland-defense exercise. "We learned from each of these," General Jackman said. The new command isn't new to the component members, said General Jackman and his second-in-command, Navy Rear Adm. Jan Gaudio. On the ceremonial side, the various service components have had to work closely together for years. "The nation goes to war as a joint force," Admiral Gaudio said. "It's logical to respond in the National Capital Region as a joint force."

The new command also has responsibility to sift through threat reports and respond accordingly. It will be supporting other agencies, such as the Department of Homeland Security or one of the local jurisdictions. The command, for example, will head the military assistance to the presidential inauguration in January. Planners in the command will work out contingency plans and procedures with local, state and federal authorities.

The new command will stop the ad hoc nature of past operations. In the aftermath of the plane hitting the Pentagon, the services joined to support first the Arlington Fire Department and then the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Had a joint command existed, "there were forces we might have brought to bear more quickly," General Jackman said.

DOD program recruits spouses for teaching jobs

By Samantha Quigley
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Spouses to Teachers, the Department of Defense’s latest endeavor to help military spouses interested in teaching, is serving a similar purpose as the popular Troops to Teachers program, an official said. DOD officials established Troops to Teachers in 1994, and responsibility for the program was recently transferred to the U.S. Department of Education. Troops to Teachers was created to help recruit quality teachers for schools that serve low-income families throughout America, according to the Troops to Teachers Web site.

Troops to Teachers laid the groundwork for Spouses to Teachers in providing individual state information, said Michael Melo, director of a Spouses to Teachers pilot program in Virginia and director of Virginia’s Troops to Teachers program.

Spouses to Teachers is currently a pilot program in six states: California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Texas and Virginia. The program was prompted by military spouses who were already teachers or interested in teaching, but were facing difficulties finding certification requirements and job information when they moved, said Gary Woods, acting director of DOD educational opportunities.

The program would offer information, counseling and guidance to eligible, interested individuals, they said. Initially, eligibility is limited to those with a bachelor’s degree who are spouses of active-duty service members and members of the Selected Reserve or Individual Ready Reserve on extended duty.

It will also offer limited financial assistance to help defray the costs of meeting state certification requirements in the pilot states.

On the future Spouses to Teachers Web site and in offices that will be handling the program, the goal is to provide information on teacher-certification requirements within a state. They’ll also have information on what kinds of jobs are available and share that within the system they’re currently teaching in and systems they may be transferring into, Mr. Woods said.

These sources also aim to make spouses aware of additional course requirements for certification or credentialing within the new state and make sure spouses know where they can turn for potential financial assistance to pursue those courses. Because of that established network, the Virginia Spouses to Teachers office is able to help transferring spouses become aware of how they may need to augment their certification, as certifications aren’t always accepted in a different school system, Mr. Melo said.

“Because of the network we have from Troops to Teachers with the Department of Education, with the school districts, with the colleges, we’re able to provide that information the spouses need on what they need to do to be certified in a particular state,” Mr. Melo said

Even before the Web site has been posted, the response has been positive, Mr. Melo said. Four spouses are in the Virginia pilot program, and one has entered an academic program that will lead to a license.

While the program serves spouses interested in teaching, it also helps ease the burden of a national teacher shortage. The benefits, however, aren’t limited to the schools that stand to get quality teachers out of the program. The students reap rewards as well.

“The military spouse has (a) variety of life experiences that they’ve gained as a military spouse,” Mr. Melo said. “They bring those same experiences to impart in the learning process of the students.”

Week in History

Sept. 27, 1993 – Gen. James Doolittle, who led the first air raid on Tokyo and commanded the Eighth Air Force during World War II, died at the age of 96.

Sept. 28, 1924 – Two Douglas World Cruisers completed the first successful ‘round-the-world’ flight.

Sept. 29, 1976 – The first of two groups of ten women-pilot candidates entered undergraduate pilot training at Williams Air Force Base, Ariz. – the first time since World War II that women could train to become pilots of military aircraft.

Sept. 30, 1949 – The Berlin airlift, gradually reduced since May 12, officially ends. Allied aircraft carried 2,343,301.5 tons of supplies on 277,264 flights. U.S. planes carried 1,783,826 tons.

Oct. 1, 1989 – Gen. Hansford Johnson became the first Air Force Academy graduate to become a four-star general.

The following is a list of extraordinary events in military history that occurred this week:

REMINDER: FAC services available daily

The Family Assistance Center is open weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the deployment control center and will be available until services are no longer needed. Agencies available include: legal, finance, TMO, chaplain, behavioral health, Air Force Aid, American Red Cross and family housing. For more information on available services call (877) 571-7209.

TROY STATE UNIVERSITY

COMANDO/TERM

560676

2 X 5.00

MILITARY MEDIA

COMM/RETAIN

561638

2 X 5.00

BILL ROBB
COMMANDO/BILL RO
561623
2 X 2.00

AUDIO
EXPRES-
SIONS
COMMAN-
DO/CAR STE
560670

Special **OPERATORS**

PENTAGON FEDERAL CREDIT
COMM/EMERGENCY L
562964
3 X 8.00

WARNING

Due to extensive flooding during Hurricane Ivan and potential sewage spills in the local area, all personnel should adhere to the following recommendations:

- No personnel should enter any open waterways, to include the Soundside Marina area.

- Don't walk barefoot on any coastal or beach areas, to include all local beaches, until cleared by the county health departments. Hurlburt Field will be cleared by the 16th Special Operations Wing commander.

- Don't attempt to retrieve any debris in ditches since potential exists for raw sewage to be present. Only personnel with the appropriate personal protective equipment should remove this material.

If you have any questions, call Capt. Christopher Bishop or Capt. Anthony Ty in bioenvironmental engineering at 881-1822.

AF putts way to golf championship

SAN ANTONIO – The Air Force golf team won the 2004 Armed Forces Golf Championship at Fort Carson, Colo., Sept. 21 to 25.

The host Army team jumped to a three-stroke lead over the Air Force (731-734) after the first day of play.

Team's scores are determined by adding the 18-hole stroke total of the six men and three women on the team. Brian Billingsley, from Robins Air Force Base, Ga., kept the Air Force competitive with his 1-under-par 71, tying Mark Johnson of the Army for the best score of the day.

Tammy Garcia, from Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, led all women golfers on opening day with her round of 84. Jeff Scohy, also from Wright-Patterson AFB, shot the best round on the second day of play, a 5-under-par 67. Matthew Peterson, from Offutt AFB, Neb., had a 3-under-par 69, while Billingsley and Arnell Garza, from Fairchild AFB, Wash., came in at 70.

The Air Force also had the top three women's scores of the day with Karin Tjelmeland, from Lajes Field, Azores, leading the group with a 78. Garcia and Amy Rongey, from Osan Air Base, South Korea, both shot 81. The combined scores of the Air Force Team beat the Army's total by 21 strokes, giving the Air Force an 18-stroke lead over the Army after the second day of play.

Scohy's 69 once again led the Air Force team on Day 3, followed closely by 72 from Billingsley, Garza and Barry Cousler, from Offutt AFB, Neb. James Logan Gage, from Patrick AFB, Fla., was not far behind with a score of 73. Rongey's 86 led the women on Day 3. These scores contributed to the Air Force's overall 41-stroke lead going into the final day of play. Peterson's 70 led the Air Force on the final day of competition. Scohy, Cousler and Garza all shot 72, while Billingsley ended the tournament with a 73. Rongey led the women with an 84.

The Air Force claimed the team title with a 2,793-stroke total, followed by the Army (2,842), the Navy (3,000), and the Marine Corps (3,096). Scohy topped all competitors with his four-day total of 283, followed closely by Billingsley's 286. This earned them gold and silver medals for the championship. (AFPN)

Mike Lilly (number 297), 505th Communications Squadron, running the full marathon, falls in behind other runners near the third relay exchange zone.

Photo by 1st Lt. Adrienne Michele

Hurlburt runner finishes in AF marathon's top 20

By Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

A 505th Communications Squadron officer completed the more than 26-mile Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 18.

"I try to support the Air Force Marathon every year in hopes it will grow in numbers," Mike Lilly said. "My goal is to win the marathon in the next couple of years – if I can stay injury free."

Lilly, who placed 11th out of 1,188 participants, has participated in 23 marathons in the past 10 years. As the marathon requirements become more familiar to him, he prepares routine training for each race.

"(This year,) I only prepared a month in advance due to an injury I developed this summer," he said. "I ran daily for about an hour and longer runs once a week up to 20 miles."

The course for the marathon contained a large number of hills and has been called "more challenging than the Boston Marathon." However, there were a large number of water and electrolyte stations along the way to help keep the runners hydrated, according the marathon Web site.

"The most difficult leg of the race was the 23rd mile that has a steep climb coming back onto base," Lilly said. "That was a difficult point in the race to have such a steep hill."

With the Armed Forces Marathon scheduled for Oct. 31 in Washington D.C., Lilly continues to train and prepare mentally.

"I learned that you must be patient in marathon training," he said. "You can't increase your mileage too quickly, or you'll do more harm than good. You must be well-disciplined and focused, but anyone can complete a marathon if they have the desire and determination."

Photo by Steve Brown

FORT CARSON, Colo. – Karin Tjelmeland, Lajes Field, Azores, putts during the 2004 Armed Forces Golf Championship here. The Air Force golf team won the four-day match. Tjelmeland was the top female golfer with her total of 341.

Sports shorts

Doolittle golf tournament

A two-day golf tournament open to all players is scheduled Oct. 14 – 15 at the Eglin Golf Course. The entry fee includes green fee, cart fee, refreshments on the course, door-prize tickets, lunch for both days and a hors d'oeuvres party ending each day. Registration forms are available at local golf courses, or for more information, call Dave Andrews at 651-1314.

Bocce tournament

A bocce tournament will be held Oct. 23 beginning at noon at 625 Lovejoy Road NW in

Fort Walton Beach. Cost is \$440 for a four-man team and \$10 for individuals. Trophies and prizes will be given out, and drinks and food will be available. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. William Oravetz at 884-2094.

Chief's golf tournament

The Hurlburt Field Chief's Group will hold a golf tournament Oct. 15 at Gator Lakes Golf Course. Registration is at noon; shotgun start at 1 p.m. The tournament is limited to 30 teams – four-person best ball ruling. Cost is \$35 per player which includes two Mulligans. Prizes will

be awarded to the top three teams, longest drive and the closest to the pin. For more information, call Lefford Fate at 881-3950 or Thomas Hensen at 884-8471.

Commando 5K Run

The Commando 5K Run will be held Oct. 16 beginning at 8 a.m. Check-in times are at 7 and 7:30 a.m. at the Aderholt Fitness Center. The race is open to all ages. All runners must be registered by noon Oct. 15 at the Aderholt Fitness Center or the Commando Fitness Center. For more information, call 884-6884 or 884-4412.

Community

Western Wash. ANG

The following openings are available with the Western Washington Air National Guard: 1C4X1, 2E1X1, 2E1X3, 2E2X1, 2E6X2, 2G0X1, 2S0X1, 2TXXX, 3A0X1, 3C0X1, 3E0X1, 3E0X2, 3E2X1, 3E3X1, 3E4X1, 3E5X1, 3E9X1, 3M0X1 and 3S0X1. For more information, call Master Sgt. Tabatha Bennett at DSN: 370-3368 or Comm: (253) 512-3368.

Comptroller closure

The 16th Comptroller Squadron will be closed from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 8 in support of an official function. For emergencies, call 803-3324. For more information, call Master Sgt. John Kavanagh at 884-4054 or Twanna Connors at 884-6419.

REDHORSE haunted house

The men and women of the 823rd REDHORSE Squadron won't be hosting the annual haunted house this year, due to mission requirements.

Fire Prevention week

The following is a schedule of events for Fire Prevention Week, Sunday through Oct. 9:

Saturday: Firetruck parade through Hurlburt Field housing, 9-11 a.m.

Sunday: Firetruck parade through Eglin Air Force Base housing, 9-11 a.m.

Monday through Friday: Sparky "the fire dog" will be at the front gate (Monday and Wednesday) and the back gate (Tuesday and Thursday), 6-7 a.m.

Fire prevention displays at the base exchange (Monday), shoppette (Tuesday) and mini mall (Wednesday) and commissary (Friday) 1-2 p.m.

Hispanic Heritage Month

The military equal opportunity office is seeking volunteers to assist in organizing, preparing and supporting Hispanic Heritage Month through Oct. 15. Meetings are Wednesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. in the MEO conference room. The following is the current heritage month calendar of events:

Thursday: Youth Cultural Day – 1 to 2 p.m. at the child development center

Oct. 8: Dance lessons – 5 to 7 p.m. at the 823rd REDHORSE Squadron auditorium

Oct. 15: Prayer breakfast – 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at the base chapel

For more information, call 1st Lt. Angel Lugo at 884-8209 or Staff Sgt. Bill White at 884-5879.

HOSC bazaar, silent auction

The Hurlburt Officers' Spouses' Club will host its 17th Annual Holiday Charity Bazaar and Silent Auction Oct. 16 at the Emerald Coast Conference Center from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The bazaar will feature more than 60 local and state vendors and the silent auction will feature certificates for items such as salons, restaurants, movies and weekend get-aways. The HOSC is looking for volunteers to help organize a bake sale and man the concession stand at the bazaar.

All proceeds from the HOSC booths will benefit the club's Welfare Fund, which provides support to local charities, including Bob Hope Village and the

Air Force Village. For more information, call Shelley Berke at 862-6685 or Kimberly Rensel at 936-5049.

Order of the Sword

Air Force Special Operations Command enlisted Airmen will induct Gen. Paul Hester, former AFSOC commander, into the Order of the Sword Nov. 5 at the Emerald Coast Conference Center. The general will be recognized for his contributions to the enlisted men and women of AFSOC. Tickets will go on sale for the induction ceremony, which is an enlisted-only event, Wednesday.

Mullet festival

The 28th Annual Boggy Bayou Mullet Festival will be held Oct. 15 – 17 at the intersection of U.S. Highway 85 North and College Boulevard. Cost is \$5 for adults, children age 12 and under are free. The festival will have a children's stage with clown shows, magic shows, and cartoon characters. There'll also be homemade crafts, food concessions and several band performances throughout the festival.

Red Cross services open

The American Red Cross opened service centers Monday to help victims of Hurricane Ivan with disaster-related needs in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. The service centers will operate from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and are located at East Brent Baptist Church in Escambia County and Gulf Breeze Methodist Church in Santa Rosa County. For more information, call (866) 438-4636.

Munch and Mend

The Hurlburt Chapel will host Munch and Mend Monday from 5 to 7 p.m. Airmen can come have stripes, nametags or patches sewn on to one piece of clean clothing, while enjoying a free homemade meal. For more information, call Bill White at 884-7371 or Jimmie Thomas at 315-4746.

Classes

ERAU registration

Registration for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's winter term will be held through Oct. 15 in Building 90220 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 8 a.m. to noon Fridays. Add/drop dates are Oct. 18-22. Class dates are Oct. 18 through Dec. 18. For more information, call 581-2106.

HAWC classes

To reserve a seat in the following health and wellness center classes or for more information, call 884-4292. All classes are free and held in Building 90232.

Physical Training Leader Training – Monday, 8 a.m.

Physical Training Leader Nutrition – Monday, 1 p.m.

Healthy Living Workshop – Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.

Fitness Improvement Program – Tuesday, 10 a.m.

Body Composition Improvement Program – Tuesday, 1 p.m.

Eating Heart Healthy – Tuesday, 2 p.m.

Total Fitness Enhancement – Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.

Diabetic Nutrition Follow Up – Wednesday, 3:30 p.m.

Air Force TV and Radio News



To check out Air Force TV or Radio News visit: <http://af.feedroom.com> or www.af.mil/news and click on TV or radio to find out what's happening around the Air Force.

Hurlburt Field Chapel



Catholic Mass
Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.
Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request
Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday
Religious Education: September–May

Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (Traditional worship)

11:30 a.m. (Contemporary worship)

Religious Education: August – May

Youth and Singles groups available

Jewish Services (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel Center

Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center

Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

For more information, call 884-7795

At the movies



Prices are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Hurlburt Field 884-7648

Friday and Saturday – (PG-13) **I, Robot**, starring Will Smith and Bridgit Moynahan – In the year 2035, robots are an everyday household item and have become more and more advanced, but each one is preprogrammed to always obey humans and to, under no circumstances, ever harm a human. Everyone trusts them, except Del Spooner. Del is one, slightly paranoid detective investigating what he alone believes is a crime perpetrated by a robot. The case leads him to discover a far more frightening threat to the human race.

Sunday – (R) **Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle**, starring John Cho and Hal Penn – Both underdogs, Harold and Kumar decide to spend what would have been an otherwise uneventful Friday night satisfying an oddly intense urge for White Castle hamburgers. However, finding a suitable White Castle proves a highly difficult task, and the two friends wind up on an epic road trip.

Eglin 882-1066

Friday – (PG-13) **Alien versus Predator**, starring Lance Henriksen and Sanaa Lathan – An ancient pyramid is discovered buried in the ice of Antarctica, and scientists investigating the structure discover something worse: two races of aliens battling for domination. As the two species fight, humans find themselves caught in the middle and becoming casualties.

Saturday – (R) **Open Water**, starring Blanchard Ryan and Daniel Travis – Based on true events, Susan and Daniel, have just been abandoned by their scuba-diving boat in the Caribbean. As the tension escalates between the troubled twosome, a current sweeps them far from where the boat left them, and deep, dark clouds pass menacingly overhead, the sea-life just below the surface is clearly not of the friendly variety.

Sunday – (PG-13) **Without a Paddle**, starring Seth Green and Matthew Lillard – Three lifelong friends from Philadelphia go into the Oregon wilderness in search of lost treasure. As the trio is canoeing down the Columbia River, the river turns dangerous. They soon find themselves being hunted by two backwoods farmers, and encounter tree-hugging hippie chicks and a crazy old mountain man.

(Editor's note: Movies are subject to change. Telephone numbers are provided for patrons to confirm dates.)

Post-Ivan facility operating hours

NOTE:

TRICARE Prime beneficiaries enrolled with the 16th Medical Group won't be subject to Point of Service penalties (fees normally assessed for care provided by someone other than the beneficiaries primary care manager without first obtaining a referral or authorization) for urgent medical care obtained between the dates of Sept. 13-27.

For more information, call 881-2620 or Humana (800) 444-5445.



Photo by Vanessa Adame

Welcome aboard

Maj. Jaimie Pease, 16th Mission Support Squadron commander, hands Capt. Brian Oakes and the 16th Special Operations Wing Manpower and organization office a new 16th MSS hat welcoming them to the squadron. Today, the wing manpower office realigned from a wing staff agency to a flight within the 16th MSS, as part of an Air Force wide effort to consolidate its human resources function. While the consolidation will improve certain functions behind the scenes, the merger should be transparent to most of the base populace and direct contact with each of the serviced organizations will remain the same.

QUALITY IMPORTS/CAM GRP
COMM/TOYOTA
554670
5 X 6.00

An injured patient (below) waits for medical attention along with a Special Operations Forces member.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Wendy Cormier

Tech. Sgt. Paul McCarthy performs a needle thraoctomy on a dummy during a Special Operations Forces Medical Element exercise aboard an aircraft at the Army Ranger camp recently. The procedure is intended to stabilize a patient with a gunshot wound.

SOFME: *Saving lives beyond borders*

By Vanessa Adame
Public Affairs

The Special Operations Forces Medical Element is a team you'd never hope to meet, but rest assured, you'd be in good hands if you ever came across one.

The SOF medical element is a team of highly-trained medical professionals who work closely with other Special Operations Forces, to include two Air Force Special Operations Command specialized trained independent-duty medical technicians/Special Operations Forces paramedics, to provide medical care to service members deployed to an AFSOC environment.

The teams, which travel in groups of three, to include one flight surgeon and two medical technicians, lend clinical care to deployed Special Operations Forces and perform minor surgeries. But element members also have a much more intricate mission which consists of performing casualty flight evacuations which often takes them into combat zones to pick up critically ill patients from pararescuemen, Navy Seals, Army Rangers and other Special Forces.

"We take patients from a point-of-injury to reach a higher echelon of surgical medical capability," said an NCO with the 16th Operations Support Squadron.

The teams transport in environments that normally wouldn't allow conventional medics to operate, he said.

"We often work in complete low-light conditions aboard aircraft while performing advanced medical procedures which makes our job extremely difficult," he said.

Unlike pararescuemen, SOFME teams don't perform extraction techniques to isolate injured service members from an active battlefield, but they have often been caught up in situations where their aircraft is fired upon, he said.

Compared to pararescuemen, the medical element team can also provide more intensive medical care during transport and manage patients for longer periods of time. Those skills were recently tested during a capability demonstration organized at the request of the Air Force Surgeon General's office to showcase SOFME casualty evacuation capabilities aboard rotary and fixed wing aircraft.

The exercise, which was held at the Ranger Camp on Aug. 31, consisted of an Army Ranger element injured during an attack at a simulated forward deployed location. SOFME team members provided casualty evacuation, extensive trauma treatment, resuscitation, and monitoring during the two hour exercise.

"Some of the lessons learned during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom showed a lack of knowledge of SOFME casualty evacuation capabilities throughout the joint Special Operations community," he said.

"It's vital that joint Special Forces operators understand the medical capabilities we have available if they may need to call for casualty evacuation within the SOF arena," he said.

The AFSOC medical element is comprised of nine teams within the 16th Operations Group; about six of those teams deploy on a rotational basis at any given time. Three additional teams are also located at Royal Air Force Mildenhall; with two other teams at Kadena Air Base, Japan.



An MH-53 PAVE LOW transports a patient to receive advanced medical care during the SOFME exercise.